

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

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1. No Nicaraguan Guardia Nacional groups are known to have entered into definite agreements with the Opposition, but [REDACTED] many officers and men are ready to switch sides the moment it appears advisable. 25X1X
2. The young pilots in the Nicaraguan Air Force represent the principal element which is ready to conspire against Somoza. The pilots are disposed to collaborate because they believe they would be the determining factor in a new regime.
3. Somoza has retained the loyalty of the Guardia chiefly through paying good salaries to high officials and giving them opportunities to make money in other activities. However, Guardia officers in outlying areas have complained that their salaries barely provide them with food, and that the only officials who fare well are those around Somoza. Thus there is more dissatisfaction in the small towns than in Managua, and the opposition has many adherents among Guardia units throughout the country.
4. Not generally known is the fact that when the fall of Somoza seemed imminent in 1947, certain officers, including Col. Francisco Gaitan, Maj. Federico Davidson Blanco, the Department Commander at Rivas, and the commanders of the garrisons at Matagalpa and San Juan del Sur, discussed a deal with the opposition. When the situation resolved itself in favor of Somoza, this group made a quick about-face and backed the latter.

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